

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 SP-02 OMB-01 /039 W
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R 211600Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2917

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6297

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAGR, GE

SUBJECT: GDR INTEREST IN US GRAIN PURCHASES

1. ON JULY 21 I ATTENDED, AT THE POLISH EMBASSY, THE CELBRA-
TION OF THE POLISH NATIONAL DAY.

2. AMONG THE GDR OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE HORST SINDERMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS; FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER; DEPUTY MINISTER GRUNERT AND DR. GEYER OF THE AMERICAN DESK. ALL SPOKE TO ME OF THE DROUGHT, SAYING THE PRESENT RAINS ARE TOO LATE AND A GREAT PART OF THE CROPS WILL NOT BE REALIZED.

3. SINDERMAN ENGAGED ME IN A TEN MINUTE TALK WITH GRUNERT AS INTERPRETER. HE SAID THAT THE GDR WANTED TO BUY GRAIN FROM THE US, WOULD LIKE A FIVE-YEAR GRAIN CONTRACT, AND THAT DR BEIL, OF THE FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY, WOULD POSSIBLY ASK TO SEE ME.

4. WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY AND MAY, IN CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT FORD, HE TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD LIKE ME TO ENCOURAGE AGRICULTURAL SALES TO THE GDR. I HAVE NOT YET DONE SO, OTHER THAN TO SAY AT THE LEIPZIG SPRING FAIR, IN RESPONSE TO A STATEMENT BY DR. BEIL, THAT THE
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PRESIDENT HAD TOLD ME HE WISHED AN EXPANSION OF TRADE

WITH THE GDR. THIS WAS REPORTED AT THE TIME.

5. I WOULD NOT BELIEVE A FIVE-YEAR TRANSACTION IS IN ACCORD WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY. HOWEVER, IF FINANCING CAN BE ARRANGED, I CAN SEE THAT A SALE OF SOME GRAIN THIS YEAR TO THE GDR WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US FARMERS AND THE ECONOMY.

6. IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENTS TO ME, I SUGGEST THAT THIS MESSAGE AND ITS INFORMATION BE SUBMITTED TO HIM.
COOPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERLIN06297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760281-0396
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760738/aaaabhdh.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR INTEREST IN US GRAIN PURCHASES
TAGS: PFOR, EAGR, EPAP, GC, US, (SINDERMANN, HORST)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006